

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A method of determining a most suitable cell during network acquisition for a cellular communications device, based on a characteristic of signals received from a plurality of cells, the signals from each cell being provided over a band of frequencies, said method comprising:

taking a series of measurements of said characteristics for each frequency of a first frequency band, so as to obtain an average measurement value of said characteristic for each frequency of said first frequency band, wherein the series of measurements on said first frequency band are equally spaced in time, with equal time intervals therebetween; and

during the time intervals between measurements for said first frequency band, taking a series of measurements of said characteristic for each frequency of a second frequency band,

wherein said first and second frequency bands operate in different operating modes.

22. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 21 wherein one operating mode comprises GSM, and the other operating mode comprises UMTS.

23. (Previously presented) A cellular communications device including means for determining a most suitable cell during network acquisition for a cellular communications device, based upon a characteristic of signals received from a plurality of cells, the signals from each cell being provided over a band of frequencies, said cellular communications device comprising:

a first unit for taking a series of measurements of said characteristics for each frequency of a first frequency band, so as to obtain an average measurement value of the characteristic for each frequency of the first frequency band, wherein the series of measurements on the first frequency band are equally spaced in time, with equal time intervals therebetween; and

a second unit for taking a series of measurements of the characteristic for each frequency of a second frequency band during the time intervals between measurements for the first frequency band,

wherein said first and second frequency bands operate in different operating modes.

24. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 23 wherein one operating mode comprises GSM, and the other operating mode comprises UMTS.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said series of measurements on said first frequency band that is equally spaced in time is repeated a predetermined number of times to calculate said average measurement for each said frequency.

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26. (New) The method of claim 25, as interrupted before said predetermined number of times occurs and before said average measurement value is obtained, said interruption occurring due to having determined that an unusually strong signal has been detected and will be used as said most suitable cell.

27. (New) The cellular communication device of claim 23, wherein said first unit and said second unit take said series of measurements on said first frequency band and said second frequency band a predetermined number of times to calculate said average measurement for each said frequency in said first frequency band.

28. (New) The cellular communication device of claim 27, wherein said first unit and said second unit interrupt taking measurements before said predetermined number of times occurs and before said average measurement value is obtained, said interruption occurring due to having determined that an unusually strong signal has been detected and will be used as said most suitable cell.

29. (New) A method of determining a most suitable cell and a most suitable mode for a cellular communication device capable of operating in at least two modes, each operating mode having a plurality of frequencies occupying a frequency band, said method comprising:

selectively, for each time period of a predetermined number of successive time periods, sequentially taking measurements of a characteristic for each frequency of each frequency band for each operating mode said cellular communication device is capable, each said time period being equal in time;

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calculating an average value of said characteristic for each frequency of each frequency band; and

selecting said most suitable cell and said most suitable mode based upon said average values.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said characteristic comprises a signal strength.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, as interrupted before said predetermined number of times occurs and before said average measurement value is obtained, said interruption occurring due to having determined that an unusually strong signal has been detected and will be used as said most suitable cell and said most suitable mode.

32. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein one operating mode comprises GSM and another operating mode comprises UMTS.